

LOUISIANA
FIRST QUARTER 2003 EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES
SUBJECT TO THE LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW

The average quarterly employment for Louisiana during first quarter 2003 was 1,833,542, a decrease of 1.0% from the fourth quarter 2002, and a decrease of 0.3% from the same period in 2002. Employment increased in six of the 20 NAICS sectors from the fourth quarter 2002. The largest percentage increase of 2.9% was in professional and technical services. Average quarterly employment by NAICS sector and subsector is shown in the table "Louisiana Statewide" beginning on page 6.

Industry and parish code changes resulting from the annual Industry Verification Survey, completed by employers, are reflected in the data for first quarter 2003. Therefore, significant changes may have occurred in industry and parish data.

Health care and social assistance was the leading industry in the state with 257,292 employees, or 14.0% of total employment. RLMA one was the leading region with 593,200 employees, or 32.4% of total employment.

Average quarterly employment data for first quarter 2003, fourth quarter 2002, first quarter 2002, and the percent change for the major industry sectors is shown in the table "Louisiana Average Employment and Units – 1st Quarter 2003" on page 3. Louisiana's average employment distribution by NAICS sectors and RLMA can be found in the charts on pages 4 and 5 respectively.

Total wages increased 1.6% from the same period in 2002, and decreased by 5.9% from fourth quarter 2002, for an average weekly wage of \$582.97.

Average weekly wage data for each RLMA is listed in the following table. Average weekly wage data by NAICS sector and subsector is shown in the table "Louisiana Statewide" beginning on page 6.

Parish	Avg. Wkly. Wage
RLMA 1	\$ 632.89
RLMA 2	598.03
RLMA 3	585.04
RLMA 4	572.12
RLMA 5	553.02
RLMA 6	477.89
RLMA 7	538.64
RLMA 8	488.47

The number of reporting units for first quarter 2003 was 115,788, an increase of 78 units or 0.1% from fourth quarter 2002, and an increase of 1,365 units or 1.2% from the same period in 2002. The number of reporting units for first quarter 2003, fourth quarter 2002, first quarter 2002, and the percent change for the major industry sectors is shown in the table "Louisiana Average Employment and Units – 1st Quarter 2003" on page 3.

Due to the conversion to NAICS, this data should not be compared to data in publications prior to first quarter 2001.

LOUISIANA MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT

